

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HEW-08 CU-04 USIA-15 SCI-06 AID-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10

IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 PRS-01 PA-04 L-03 AF-10

ARA-16 OIC-04 H-03 NSC-10 ABF-01 DRC-01 /218 W

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P 051114Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1286

UNCLAS OECD PARIS 31068

DEPT PASS HEW/OE FOR WILLIAM L. SMITH AND LEESTMA;

HEW/NIE FOR GLENNAN AND MARTIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, OECD

SUBJECT: CERI GOVERNING BOARD DISCUSSION OF DECENTRALIZED PROJECTS

REF: A) USOECD 30619

B) GENERAL ISSUES, CERI/CD(73)19

1. SUMMARY: PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION BY GOVERNING BOARD OF DECENTRALIZED PROJECTS (REF A) SUGGESTS DEPARTMENT MIGHT USEFULLY TAKE LOOK AT IMPLICATIONS OF DECENTRALIZATION FOR US (SEE PARAS 5 AND 6 BELOW). THE GB AT NOVEMBER 27 MEETING (REF A) BRUSHED OFF SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS IN PARA 8 REF B FOR ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF DECENTRALIZATION AND URGED THE SEC GEN TO CONTINUE THE PRESENT "TRANSITIONAL" PRACTICE OF (A) KEEPING SPECIAL ACCOUNTS SEPARATE FROM THE CERI BUDGET FOR EXTERNALLY FINANCED PROJECTS, (B) GIVING THE PROJECTS ALMOST COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE IN PROGRAM MATTERS, BUT (C) PROVIDING REIMBURSABLE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OF WHICH THE MOST UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPORTANT ASPECT IS RETENTION OF STAFF PERSONNEL IN OECD PERSONNEL

SYSTEM (PARA 9 REF B). ON OTHER MATTERS, GB SUPPORTED REQUEST OF IMHE DIRECTOR TO EXTEND PRESENT MANDATE FOR TWO YEARS, TO DECEMBER 31, 1976, AND WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME FOR IMTEC IF IT HAD BEEN ASKED. NOTEWORTHY WAS UK ANNOUNCEMENT THAT 1974 WAS LAST YEAR IN WHICH IT WOULD GIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO IMTEC. END SUMMARY

2. SECRETARIAT ASKED GOVERNING BOARD FOR INFORMAL REACTION TO "IN" OR "OUT" POLICY FOR DECENTRALIZED PROJECTS. IN GB DISCUSSION, "IN" MEANT REINTEGRATION INTO CERI PROGRAM AND BUDGET AND "OUT" MEANT STATUS INDEPENDENT OF CERI AND OECD CONTROL AND FINANCING. AT PRESENT A NUMBER OF CERI PROJECTS ARE IN VARIOUS STAGES OF DECENTRATION. FOR INSTANCE, THE FIRST THREE PROJECTS LISTED IN PARA 10, REF B, ARE FUNDED FROM THE 1973 CERI BUDGET. THE FIRST PROJECT (LEARNING SCIENCES) WILL BE DROPPED AT THE END OF THIS YEAR UNLESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR OUTSIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT ARE MADE (PARA 6, REF A). THE SECRETARIAT HAS DESIGNATED THE SECOND AND THIRD PROJECTS FOR DECENTRALIZED STATUS AND IS SEEKING OUTSIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT (I.E., FROM PRIVATE SOURCES, OR FROM GOVERNMENTS BUT OUTSIDE OECD BUDGET). THE FOURTH PROJECT IS SUPPORTED JOINTLY BY THE EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITIES IN SCOTLAND AND BY CERI FUNDS, AND INVOLVES SOME CERI STAFF MEMBERS. THE REMAINING THREE PROJECTS ARE FINANCED EXTERNALLY. OF THEM, INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR EDUCATIONAL CHANGE (IMTEC) AND THE INSTITUTIONAL MANAGEMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION (IMHE) ARE GOVERNED BY INDEPENDENT BOARDS OR DIRECTING GROUPS (DG) AND RUN BY SECONDED CERI STAFF WHO REMAIN WITHIN THE OECD PERSONNEL SYSTEM. THE LAST PROJECT (LOUVAIN CENTER) IS FINANCED AND ADMINISTERED BY BELGIUM.

3. THE SECRETARIAT (GASS) AND GB CHAIRMAN FAVORED THE "OUT" SOLUTIONS UNDER THE "IN" OR "TOUT" POLICY SPELLED OUT IN PARAS 6-9 AND 11-12 REF B. REASONS STATED BY GASS WERE PRIMARILY FINANCIAL. HE INTIMATED THAT OECD BUDGET COMMITTEE WAS TAKING NOTE OF OUTSIDE FINANCING OF DECENTRALIZED PROJECTS EVEN THOUGH THESE ACCOUNTS WERE SEPARATE FROM CERI BUDGET, AND THAT THIS HAD A DAMPENING EFFECT ON CERI BUDGET REQUESTS. HE DEPLORED THE POSSIBILITY OF REINTEGRATION OF IMTEC AND IMHE INTO THE CERI BUDGET BECAUSE IT WOULD INCREASE UNCLASSIFIED

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THE CERI BUDGET BY 10-0/0. (THE MISSION ESTIMATES THE HYPOTHETICAL INCREASE IN THE 1974 BUDGET AT A LITTLE MORE THAN 30-0/0). GASS REFERRED VAGUELY TO "DIFFICULTY" IF THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT ASKED FOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE LOUVAIN COMPUTER PROJECT (AN ALLUSION TO THE POSSIBILITY CERI MIGHT BE FACED WITH REINTEGRATION OF THIS PROJECT WHICH IS BOTH ADMINISTRATIVELY AND FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT OF CERI).

4. MEMBERS OF GB DISCUSSED DECENTRALIZATION PROPOSALS ONLY FOR IMTEC AND IMHE AND CONCLUDED THE PRESENT "TRANSITIONAL" STATUS WAS PREFERABLE TO EITHER "IN" OR "OUT". MEMBERS FEARED THEIR COUNTRIES MIGHT LOSE ACCESS TO WORK DONE IN DECENTRALIZED PROJECTS (SWISS, PORTUGUESE, GERMANS, IRISH); UK ALSO SAID GOVERNMENT FINANCING WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE OUTSIDE OECD FRAMEWORK. THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF EITHER IMTEC OR IMHE PROGRAMS. IN RESPONSE TO IMHE REQUEST, GB URGED SECGEN TO ASK COUNCIL TO EXTEND IMHE MANDATE TO DECEMBER 31, 1976. PURPOSE OF REQUEST IS TO ALLOW ADEQUATE EVALUATION OF WORK AND SUFFICIENT TIME TO NEGOTIATE INDEPENDENT STATUS (IMHE WILL HAVE SMALL FINANCIAL SURPLUS IN 1974). IF THERE HAD BEEN A REQUEST, GB UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD HAVE ALSO URGED EXTENSION OF IMTEC MANDATE TO END OF 1976. THIS QUESTION WILL BE TAKEN UP AT MEETING OF IMTEC DIRECTING GROUP ON JANUARY 31. UK MEMBER OF GB ANNOUNCED HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD END FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR IMTEC AFTER 1974; HE SAID UK GOVERNMENT GAVE LOW PRIORITY TO IMTEC BUT DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION BY PRIVATE UK GROUPS.

5. IMPLICATION FOR US. UNCERTAINTY OF WHETHER SOME DECENTRALIZED ACTIVITIES MAY BE REINTEGRATED INTO CERI ADDS FINANCIAL UNKNOWN TO NIE'S ASSESSMENT OF LONG RANGE RELATIONSHIP WITH CERI. IN THE CASE OF IMTEC, THE US CONTRIBUTION NOW COMES FROM THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION AND REINTEGRATION AT THE VERY LEAST WOULD POSE PROBLEM OF COORDINATION OF INVOLVEMENT IN CERI BY NIE AND OE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. MISSION BELIEVES SECRETARY GENERAL WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO DEVISE ARRANGEMENT UNDER WHICH SOME CERI ACTIVITIES COULD BE COMPLETELY SPUN OFF. WE BELIEVE THAT SOME GOVERNMENTS AT COUNCIL LEVEL ARE LIKELY TO SEE ADVANTAGE IN ENCOURAGING TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES TO BECOME SELF-SUPPORTING AND

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IN MAKING ROOM IN CERI PROGRAM FOR NEW PROJECTS OF HIGH
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973OECDP31068
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731244/aaaabfzw.tel
Line Count: 150
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) USOECD 30619
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 12 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Oct-2001 by williad>; APPROVED <18-Jan-2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CERI GOVERNING BOARD DISCUSSION OF DECENTRALIZED PROJECTS
TAGS: SCUL, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005